

09937849-111501
TOSTT-64826650

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A body probe for MRI having reception coils for picking up an image for use in an MRI apparatus, said reception coils being provided in a center coil portion and two side coil portions.

2. The body probe for MRI according to claim 1, wherein slide mechanisms of said side coil portions are provided at joint portions between said center coil portion and said side coil portions.

3. The body probe for MRI according to claim 2, wherein smooth surfaces are formed on both right and left sides of said center coil portion and constitute said slide mechanisms.

4. The body probe for MRI according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a bottom surface of said center coil portion is curved.

Sub-a1 → ~~5. The body probe for MRI according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein an indicator indicating a center of a center coil is provided at a center of a top surface of said center coil portion.~~

6. The body probe for MRI according to claim 5, wherein said indicator indicating said center of said center coil is a groove, a projection or a line drawn in color different from a color around said line.

7. A body probe for MRI having reception coils for picking up an image for use in an MRI apparatus, said reception coils being provided in a center coil portion, side coil portions and a base coil portion.

8. The body probe for MRI according to claim 7, wherein said center coil portion, said side coil portions and said base coil portion are constructed independently of one another.

5 *Sub 2* 9. *ai* The body probe for MRI according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said side coil portions are constructed by embedding a flexible coil in a soft member.

10 10. The body probe for MRI according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said side coil portions are provided with cutaway holes at portions where there are no coil portions.

15 11. An MRI apparatus that uses a body probe which, as recited in any one of claims 1 to 10, has reception coils for picking up an image.

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